

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a fax call request from an originating fax device, the fax call request defining a request for fax transmission to a called party device;
 - 5 determining an eligibility of the called party device to receive the fax transmission; and
 - if the called party device is determined not to be eligible to receive the fax transmission, blocking the fax call request thereby causing the called party device not to receive the fax transmission.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of blocking the fax call request is accomplished prior to ringing of the called party device.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - if the called party device is determined not to be eligible to receive the fax transmission, sending an error message to the originating fax device.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - if the called party device is determined to be eligible to receive the fax transmission, completing the fax call request, thereby enabling the called party device to receive the fax transmission.
- 25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining an eligibility of the called party device to receive the fax transmission comprises;
 - determining whether the called party device is a fax device, a positive determination of eligibility being made if the called party is a fax device.
- 30 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining whether the called party device is a fax device comprises:
 - identifying a directory number of the called party device;
 - consulting a database of directory numbers to determine if the directory number of the called party device corresponds to a fax device, a positive

Hasan 1-31

determination of eligibility being made if the directory number of the called party device corresponds to a fax device.

7. A method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 receiving a call request from an originating device;
 - determining whether the call request is a fax call request, the fax call request defining a request for fax transmission to a called party device;
 - determining whether the called party device is a fax device; and
 - if the call request is a fax call request and the called party device is not a fax
- 10 device, blocking the call request thereby causing the called party device not to receive the fax transmission.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of blocking the fax call request is accomplished prior to ringing of the called party device.

15

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
 - if the called party device is determined not to be eligible to receive the fax transmission, sending an error message to the originating fax device.

20

10. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
 - if the call request is a fax call request and the called party device is a fax device, completing the fax call request thereby enabling the called party device to receive the fax transmission.

25

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of determining whether the call request is a fax request comprises:
 - identifying a directory number of the originating device;
 - consulting a database of directory numbers to determine if the directory number of the originating device corresponds to a fax device, the call request being

30

- determined to be a fax request if the directory number of the originating device corresponds to a fax device.